AMA

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AUGUSTA ALUMNI WORLD

ALUMNI WEEKEND – 1978
The First Giant Step is Completed

The sun was shining on that May morning in 1974 when alumni, wives and guests walked from the annual alumni association meeting in the Memorial Gymnasium to the knoll behind the P.X. But the short walk was the beginning of the first giant step taken by the Association which had first become organized in 1970. The alumni were on their way for the groundbreaking ceremony which signified the beginning of construction of the AMA Alumni Memorial Infirmary. What had been a dream was now becoming a reality, as the building of this new facility at AMA began.

Fifty thousand dollars had to be obtained to pay for this project, and this was a bargain price because the efforts of several alumni had enabled us to enact substantial savings in the total construction and equipment costs of the new structure. $50,000 was still quite an undertaking for the infant organization, but those alumni who had maintained or renewed contact with AMA knew how desperately this and other projects were needed by the school. So the project was begun with courage, faith, enthusiasm and determination.

Four years and a few days later the project was completed. Association President V.P. Leavel and Building Committee Chairman Mickey Gordon were determined to have the bank note paid off as planned by the end of the fourth year of the project. We were still $4,600 short of our goal when Alumni Weekend — 78 began, but by the time the Saturday evening festivities were underway, the remaining amount had been contributed. It was a proud group that evening who watched as Mickey Gordon '39 placed the flame to the bank note held by V. P. Leavel '39. The project was done — the first giant step was completed.

ANOTHER GREAT

On Friday afternoon everyone gathered at White Hall. Carl '35 and Ellen Va. Dailey and Bud '50 and Alice LaFollette arrived from Charleston, West Virginia.

Always a time to renew friendships Alumni Weekend found Abe Shires '37, Sully Krause '37 and J. B. Redmond '38 catching up on each other's activities and recalling days of athletic glory.

It wasn't Colonel Saunders' fried chicken, but Jerry Tolson '60 and Roger Morris '59 found it to be "finger lick'in good."

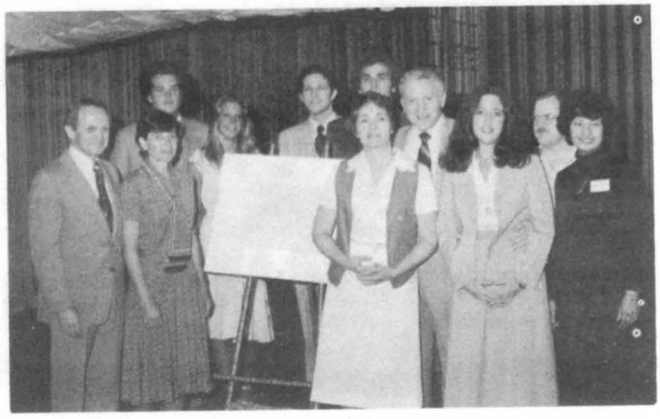
The annual meeting of the Association was held in Memorial Gymnasium on Saturday morning. Members of the class of 1928 and other alumni and guests were attentive as Pres. V. P. Leavel '39 expressed his desire to pay off the infirmary indebtedness.

Bob Thompson (friend), Hugh Sproul '23, Chairman, AMA Board of Trustees, his wife Elinor, Duke Francher '58 and Duke's mother Ruby Craig enjoy the Friday afternoon fellowship.

Chuck Pine '49 may be proposing a toast to the success of the future gathering on August 5th of Washington and Maryland area alumni. Hap Starr '51 also seems pleased that Hal Walter '48 will host that event.

ALUMNI WEEKEND

Gracen "Mose" Parkins '15 is presented a charcoal sketch of Big Barracks by President V. P. Leavel for representing the earliest class in attendance for the weekend.



Mel Alper '39, wife Jane, Mort Alper '42, wife Shirley and family and friends were all in attendance when the sketch of the plaque commemorating Mel's and Mort's parents was unveiled. The generous contribution made to the Academy by the Alpers will be used to refurbish the "Big Room" study hall.

Harold Chow '53 who came from Hawaii also received a sketch from the Alumni Association President for having traveled the fartherest distance to the reunion.

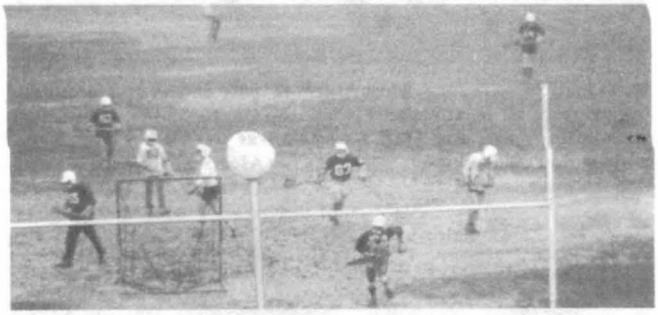
One important topic of conversation when Martin Manch '35, Carl Dailey '35 and Les Higbee '35 got together was getting the Class of 1953 together for Alumni Weekend — 79.

And finally President V. P. receives his reward for the outstanding job he accomplished during the two years of his presidency. Linda Roller Livick does the rewarding. Paul Long '51 who was then president-elect realizes he must wait for his turn.

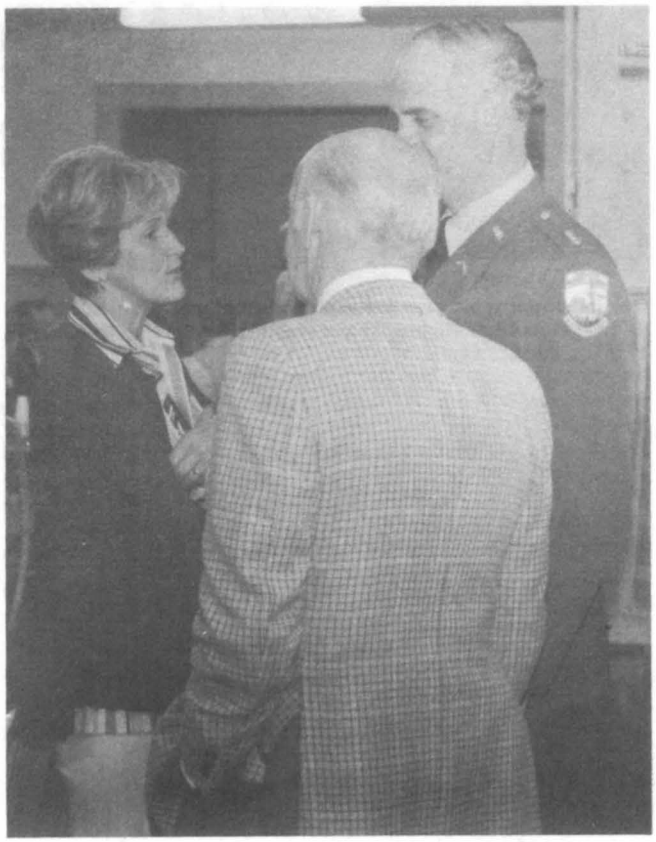
On Saturday the rains came. Hap Starr '51 had his hat; Bobby Rhea '47 brought an umbrella, but Lew Mundin '53 turned up his collar and braved the elements.

SATURDAY RAIN DIDN'T DAMPEN SPIRITS

As the corps and alumni begin to form for parade on Saturday morning, the rain began to fall. Overcast skies and wet weather prevailed through the entire day.

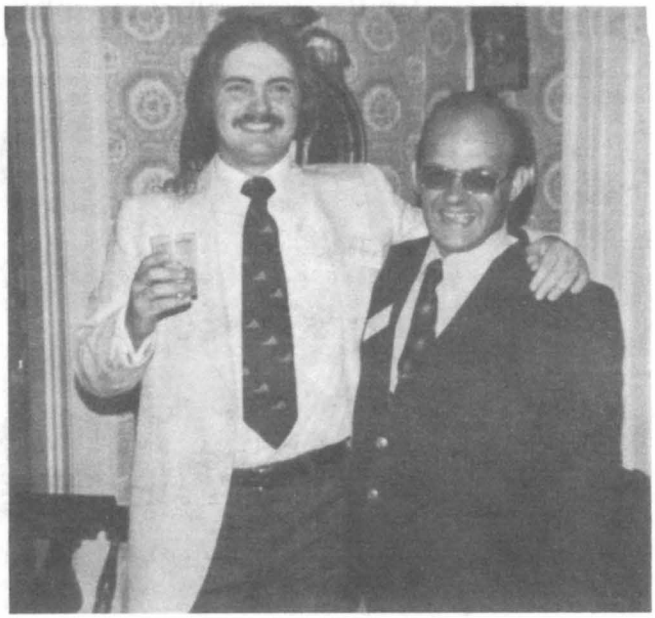


The rain, mud and wind were not enough to cancel the alumni- varsity lacrosse game which was played Saturday afternoon. Even the photographer stayed inside to take the picture. The varsity won by a narrow margin.



Les '35 and Irene Higbee and Colonel Livick were disappointed that the inclement weather prevented the Alumni Mixed Doubles Tennis Tournament being played.

Moving indoors, Major Mike Ridge, Lee Lewis '77 and Chris Vetick '77 caught up on each other's activities during the past year. More and more recent graduates return each year for alumni weekend.



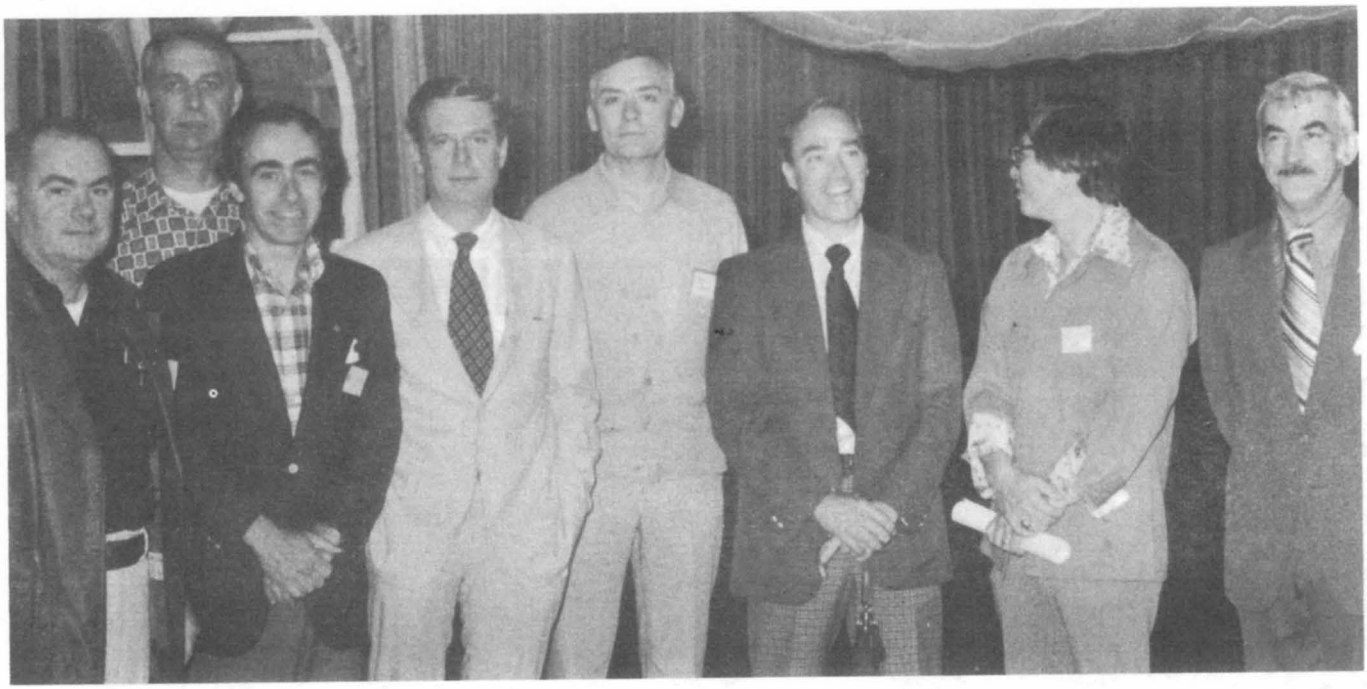
Mal Livick, Jr. '76 and Tyree Leath '69 also seem to be recalling some of the good times. Tyree has recently sent the AMA Museum newspaper clippings about AMA which he has saved over the years.

Those attending the annual meeting heard reports from the association officers and committee chairmen.

TWO CLASS REUNIONS HELD

Class Of 1928 & 1953 Each Have Eleven Return . . .

Class of 1928:
(Front Row) Frank Hardy, Bryan Andes, Fred Coleman, Collas Harris.
(Back Row) Bill Reith, Bill Cease, Worth MacAllister, Steve Timberlake, Joe Neikirk, Joe Alexander, Carl Lohmeyer.



Class of 1953:
(Left to Right) Howard Carter, Howard E. Colliflower, Lewis Mundin, John Fox, Art Rodgers, John Bair, Harold Chow, Alexander Wattay. (not in picture) Ron Mahanes, Tommy Simmons, Karl Strassman.

Through the diligent work of Joe Neikirk '28, Lew Mundin '53 and John Fox '53 the reunions for the classes of 1928 and 1953 were held during Alumni Weekend — 78. Our sincere thanks to each of these gentlemen for their work. We know that when one or several class members put forth their efforts, things begin to happen concerning class reunions. Les Higbee, Martin Manch, and Carl Dailey, all members of the class of 1935, are beginning work for their class reunion next May.

AND NOW THE SECOND STEP

The Physical Plant Improvement Fund . . . . .

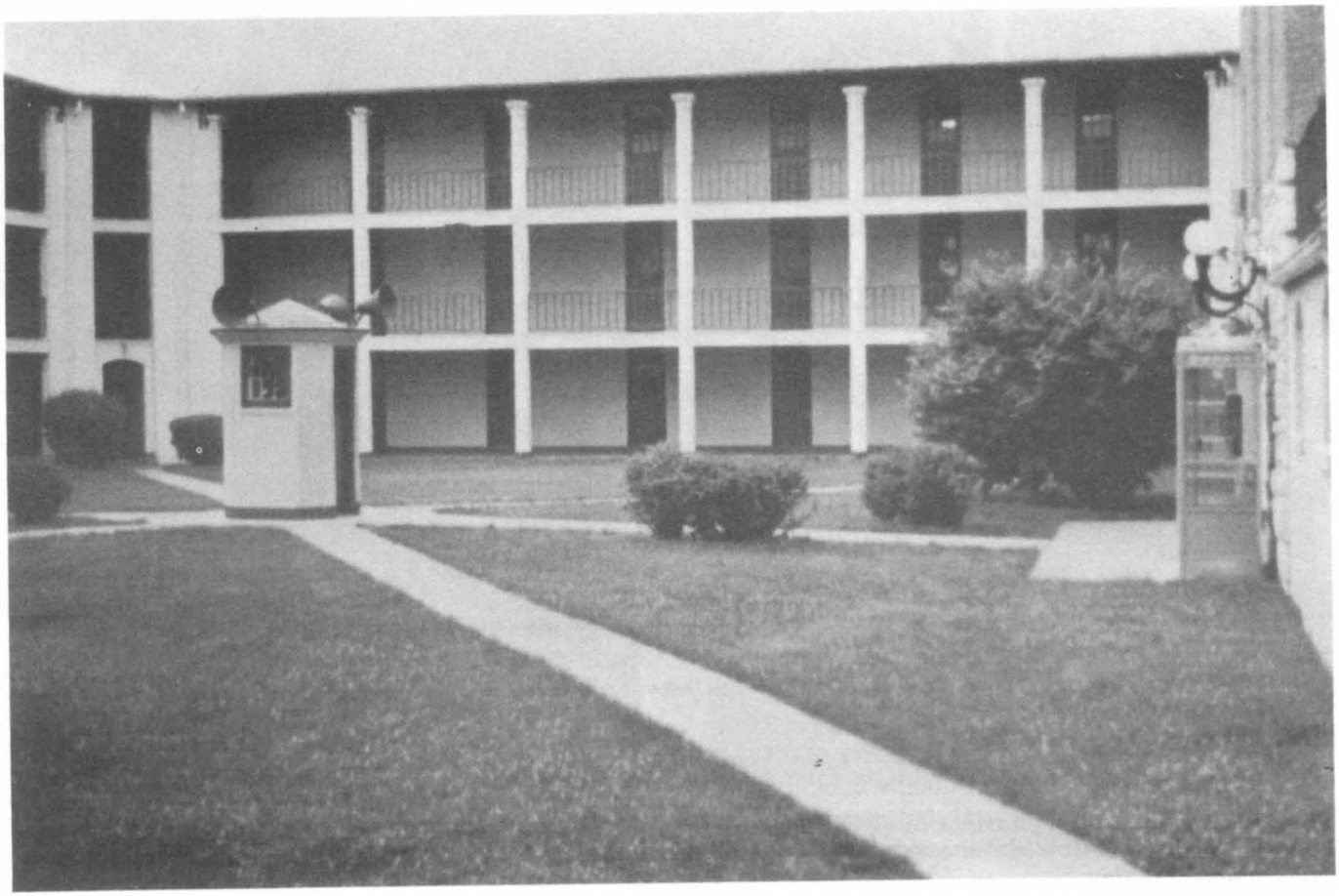
Because of the help of many of Augusta's alumni and patrons, the loan for the new AMA Alumni Memorial Infirmary was paid off in June. This is certainly a most significant accomplishment and one each of us can point to with pride.

The AMA Alumni Association wants to continue in its purpose of insuring the continuation and growth of AMA. With this purpose in mind, your new President and the Alumni Board have approved the establishment of The Physical Plant Improvement Fund which will be a continuing program of the Association. Certainly we have already seen the first project (the infirmary) completed, and we have seen the beginning of the remodeling of the cadet rooms in Big Barracks (and we hope this will continue), but in response to a request from the Academy's Board of Trustees, the Alumni Association is assuming the responsibility of raising $30,000 immediately so that the sinks on the first, second and third stoops in the southeast corner of the barracks can be completely renovated. Currently this is one of the most pressing needs of the school.

Three hundred and sixty-two gifts ranging in amounts from $2.00 to $2,600 each enabled us to build and pay for the infirmary. If each of us will participate and make our contribution to our new project, we shall be able to complete it in record time.

Our interest rate at the time we borrow the money to pay the first installment to the contractor will be 1% above prime. The early repayment of the loan will permit a substantial savings in interest payments, and the money saved can be put to very constructive use at AMA.

Please do not put this Alumni World aside until some other time. Become involved and make whatever contribution you can make today. Let us all become involved in our commitment to the future of AMA. PLEASE make your tax deductible contribution today.



FROM YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT . . .

Our Commitment To The Future

CONGRATULATIONS!! The infirmary loan has been paid off! With a little ceremony and a lot of pride, President V. P. Leavel helped those at the 1978 alumni weekend banquet burn the note. The completion of our first major project is something we can all point to with a great deal of satisfaction.

The Academy's Board of Trustees, which now operate the school, has made considerable progress in its first year, but at this point there are no funds in the budget for sorely needed physical plant improvements. Some improvements are needed immediately in order to attract more cadets which will help solve A.M.A.'s financial problems. We can help A.M.A. and its trustees by providing funds for some of these improvements to insure the future of Augusta.

Next on our "commitment to the future" agenda is the renovation of Big Barracks. To date 10% of the cadet rooms in Big Barracks have been renovated through contributions from alumni and patrons. New doors have been installed on a number of rooms. The most significant need, however, at this point is the renovation of the southeast corner "sinks".

The Alumni Association has committed itself to raising the funds to complete this project and have these "new sinks" in use before the end of this year. Preliminary work has already begun. Our $30,000 loan needs to be repaid quickly as today's interest rates are high.

Please take a moment of time to consider what Augusta has meant to you as you determine your part in our combined effort. The Physical Plant Improvement Fund has been established, and your help is needed. The future of A.M.A. is directly related to your interest. I know I can count on your help in this commitment to Augusta's future.

Sincerely,

Paul K. Long '51

President Paul addresses alumni at the 1978 alumni weekend banquet, and outlines the plans for "Our Commitment to the Future".

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S BOARD OR DIRECTORS – 1978-79

The members of your board who will serve during this administrative year are as follows:

Paul K. Long '51 — President
Bellefonte, Pennsylvania

Trion D. Fancher '58 — President-Elect
Dumfries, Virginia

David Conrad '59 — Vice-President
Crownsville, Maryland

Linda Roller Livick — Secretary
Fort Defiance, Virginia

Samuel S. Wales, Sr. '38 — Treasurer
Fort Defiance, Virginia

Myron E. Boone '32
Dover, Delaware

Howard M. Bradbury, Sr. '32
Tantallon, Maryland

John J. Botcheller '67
Yonkers, New York

Howard M. Carter '53
Lexington, Virginia

Carl N. Dailey '35
Charleston, West Virginia

Edwin S. Dillard '32
Greeneville, Tennessee

William Ditto '41
Point Pleasant, New Jersey

Herbert S. Hulvey '24
Fort Defiance, Virginia

Latelle M. LaFollette III '50
Charleston, West Virginia

V. P. Leavel '39
Martinsville, Virginia

Raymond R. Long
Altoona, Pennsylvania

Gordon R. Metz '68
Martinsville, Virginia

Robert M. Mitchell '70
Erie, Pennsylvania

Thomas M. Mitchell '52
Staunton, Virginia

Harry L. Myers '26
Mount Sidney, Virginia

Douglas A. Nemier '49
Rockville, Maryland

Joseph D. Neikirk '28
Lexington, Virginia

Robert L. Rhea '47
Staunton, Virginia

Stephen C. Rodgers '57
Harrisonburg, Virginia

Thomas Upton '64
Verona, Virginia

Andrew S. Wilks '75
Newport News, Virginia

John S. Young '40
Lynchburg, Virginia

The A.M.A. Alumni Association expresses its most sincere appreciation to the following men for their past service on the Board:

E. Phillip Bradley '49
Thomas W. Cohoon II '46
Lee Rudy Crisman '37
L. Brooke Montague '41
Lewis H. Mundin III '53
Frank E. Spencer, Jr. '49

NEWS OF INTEREST

HONOR SCHOOL OF DISTINCTION.....

Headquarters, First ROTC Region, Fort Bragg, North Carolina has notified Colonel Livick that the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps unit at Augusta Military Academy has been selected as an "Honor Unit with Distinction" for the school year 1977-78. Less than twenty percent of the Junior ROTC units in the country are so designated.

FOUR ADDITIONAL ROOMS TO BE REMODELED

Contributions have been received which will enable work to begin on the remodeling of four additional cadet rooms. This will bring the total number of rooms done to eighteen. The cost of remodeling a room now stands at $800 per room. Costs can be cut when the contractor can do a group of rooms at one time. It is hoped that additional contributions for the remodeling of rooms will be made.

The following alumni and patrons have made these most recent contributions:

J. W. Easley, Jr. '23
Paul J. Schneider '32
Mr. & Mrs. Everette A. Penniston
R. Lucius Tilley '38
James J. Washam '78
John T. Myers '77

LUCY LEE THOMPSON MEMORIAL FUND....

Duke '58 and Marsha Fancher have established the Lucy Lee Thompson Memorial Fund in memory of Marsha's mother. Other contributors to this fund have been Mrs. Ruby E. Craig, Mr. & Mrs. Frank R. Hale, and the Washington Post for whom Duke works. (The Washington Post has double matched Duke's contribution.) This fund will be used to refurbish the front porch area of the Old House (library).

VIDEO TAPE EQUIPMENT GIVEN TO ACADEMY....

Mr. & Mrs. Richard L. Stokes, parents of David L. Stokes '79, have given AMA video tape equipment which will be put to many uses this coming year. Football practices and games will be taped as will Roller Rifle drills and dress parades. This equipment can also be used as a most effective teaching tool in the classroom. Our sincere thanks to the Stokes' for the support which they continue to give to the Academy.

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS MADE....

The following alumni and patrons have given the following gifts:

Mr. & Mrs. Everette Demarest made a financial gift to the library.

Lucius H. Stephenson '39 has given a collection of books to the library.

Chris Vetick '77 donated nets for the lacrosse goals.

"The Last Fall In"

O'er barracks the last fall in has blown
Echoing o'er the hill—.
Thy battlements, thy ivied walls, alone,
They stand so still—.

No laughter fills thy silent halls
No youthful voices shrill—.
No bugle calls resound the walls
Just quiet, soft and still—.

I wonder, shall we meet again
Oh school I hold so dear?
Shall e'er I see all those who've been
My friends and classmates here?

Yes, I know we'll meet again
In priceless memories dear,
In memories, so precious, when
I'm many miles from here.

I shan't forget thee, A.M.A.,
In all the years to come.
The joys we found in work and play,
Inseparable,—are one.

And as the setting sun does gleam
On Augusta's towers high,
And night, like a blanket, dims the scene
I hear the night wind sigh.

No taps ring out, in the silence there,
For the wind to aid in its flight.
There's nought to cut that clear, calm air
Augusta's alone tonight—.

Alone, but yet the hearts of us all
In spirit, are with her still—.
As filled with pride, our minds recall
Her spirit, strength, and will.

O'er barracks the last fall in has blown
Echoing o'er the hill—.
Thy battlements, thy ivied walls, alone—
They stand, so still—.

BOB LEWIS, '37

(Thanks to Lucius Tilley '38 for bringing our attention to Bob's poem. Lucius reminded us that Bob Lewis and Francis Sposato '36 made up the acrobats and balancing team which performed here at AMA).

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